



Commission Quarterly

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July 2004

Summer Issue

Why Nebraska Women Need to Vote!

What has happened to the women in our country? Where have they all gone?

Women consist 52% of the nation's population, and yet, less than 25% show at the polls to exercise their right to vote for the candidate of their choice.

November 2004 ushers in the next Presidential election, a very important election that will decide the fate and future of our Country, our military involvement, our lifestyles and our children's future.

In the word's of Coretta Scott King, "If American women would increase their voting turnout by just 10%, we would see an end to the budget cuts in the programs that benefit women and children."

Women hold such power.

Women lose that power when they ignore the opportunity to vote.

What do you think Carrie Chapman Catt, (1859-1947), the last president of the National American Woman Suffrage Association, would say if she saw the fruits of their labor spoiling today? In a speech she once gave before hundreds, Catt is quoted as saying,

"To get the word 'male' ... out of the Constitution cost the women of this country 52 years of pauseless campaigning. During that time they were forced to conduct 56 campaigns of referenda to male voters; 480 campaigns to get Legislatures to submit suffrage amendments to voters; 47 campaigns to get State constitutional conventions to write woman suffrage into the state constitutions; 277 campaigns to get State party conventions to include woman suffrage planks; 30 campaigns to get presidential party conventions to adopt woman suffrage planks in party platforms, and 19 campaigns with 19 successive Congresses.

"Millions of dollars were raised, mainly in small sums, and expended with economic care. Hundreds of women gave the accumulated possibilities of an entire lifetime, thousands gave years of their lives, hundreds of thousands gave constant interest and such aid as they could. It was a continuous, seemingly endless, chain of activity. Young suffragists who helped forge the last links of that chain were not born when it began. Old suffragists who forged the first links were dead when it ended.

"It is doubtful if any man, even among suffrage men, ever realized what the suffrage struggle came to mean to women before the end was allowed in America. How much of time and patience, how much work, energy and aspiration, how much faith, how much hope, how much despair went into it. It leaves its mark on one, such a struggle. It fills the days and it rides the nights. Working, eating, drinking, sleeping, it is there. Not all women in all the states of the Union were in the struggle. There were some women in every state who knew nothing about it. But most women in all the states were at least on the periphery of its effort and interest when they were not in the heart of it. To them all, its success became a monumental thing."

Like the Black Civil Rights movement, the Woman's Suffrage Movement is a record of the experiences of ordinary citizens forced

to fight for their own rights against tremendous odds and social inequities. Knowing about suffrage history helps give us wonderful models of political leadership, of women organizers and administrators, activists and lobbyists. Their movement involved the first women lawyers, doctors and ministers, the first women political candidates, the first officeholders. Suffrage history is an exciting story of achievement,

"Perhaps some day men will raise a tablet reading in letters of gold: 'All honor to women, the first disenfranchised class in history who unaided by any political party, won enfranchisement by its own effort alone, and achieved the victory without the shedding of a drop of human blood. All honor to the women of the world!'"

-Harriot Stanton Blatch, daughter of the lifelong suffrage leader Elizabeth Cady Stanton.

of ingenious strategies and outrageous tactics used to outwit opponents and make the most of limited resources.

Consider for a moment that women were a poor and disenfranchised class when they first organized to gain political power in the mid-1800s. Their struggle for the ballot took over 70 years of constant, determined campaigning, yet it did not take a single life, and its success has endured. Without firing a single shot, throwing rocks or issuing a personal threat, women won for themselves rights that men have launched violent rebellions to achieve.

It's important to remember that men were suffragists, too. The suffrage movement both included men as supporters and depended on the votes that only men could cast. Even when state suffrage measures were lost, the question often received tens of thousands of male votes of approval. It was an all-male Senate and House that approved the amendment, along with 36 virtually all-male state legislatures that ratified it. Many courageous men risked ridicule and worse to actively support women's rights. These men

are far better role models for people today than many better-known political and military figures buried deep in American history.

One need not be a feminist, female, or even political to enjoy learning about the Suffrage Movement. It's a true story of democracy in the making, and how a powerless class of Americans won concessions and guarantees from those in

power without the use of violence.

Next to George Washington and his cherry tree we can place young Carrie Chapman Catt driving a wagon across the prairie by "dead reckoning" or brave Lucretia Mott trusting her own safety to a member of the mob roused against her. Let us honor Sojourner Truth no less than Patrick Henry, and Alice Paul no less than Woodrow Wilson.

Our great grandmothers fought for the rights we have today. Honor them and vote in November.

Not Registered? Now's The Time!

ELECTION COMMISSION
601 North 46th Street
Lincoln, Nebraska 68503-3720
(402) 441-7311, FAX 441-6379

DATES TO REMEMBER

Sept. 27, 2004

Absentee voting begins.

Oct. 15, 2004

Deadline for mail-in registration; must be postmarked by this date.

Oct. 22, 2004

Deadline for in-person voter registration.

Oct. 27, 2004 4:00 p.m.

Deadline to accept requests for absentee ballots to be mailed to a specific address.

Nov. 2, 2004

GENERAL ELECTION DAY

8:00 p.m. Deadline for Absentee Ballots to be returned to Election Office. Each voter must cast his/her ballot at his /her assigned polling place (place of voting). If you do not know the location of your polling place, call the Election Office, 441-7311. The polls are open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JULY 2004

5: OFFICE CLOSED, Fourth of July Observation

14: No Commission meeting

AUGUST 2004

National Breastfeeding Month

3: WomenTalk taping, "Speak Up! How to be a public policy advocate."

18: Regular Commission meeting, 5:45 p.m., K St. Complex conference room.

26: Equality Day Suffrage Anniversary

SEPTEMBER 2004

Hispanic Heritage Month

8: Regular Commission meeting, 5:45 p.m. K St. Complex conference room

30: WomenTalk taping, "Women Vote!"

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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■ No health insurance? Don't feel bad, you're not alone. There are 43.6 million nationwide who can't afford to be sick. Pg. 4

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LLWC Invited to Regional D.O.L. Conference

The U.S. Department of Labor-Women's Bureau is an important tool for women and economics.

Its mission is to promote profitable employment opportunities for women, to empower them by enhancing their skills and improving their working conditions, and to provide employers with more alternatives to meet their labor needs.

"By expanding the skills of America's working women, we are addressing the needs of our workforce and assisting women in the development of rewarding careers," stated Shinae Chun, bureau director, on the home page web site: www.dol.gov/wb.

Recently, the bureau sponsored a one-day

Women's Bureau Vision Statement:
We will empower women to enhance their potential for securing more satisfying employment as they seek to balance their work-life needs.

workshop, featuring keynote speaker and director, Shinae Chun.

Upon invitation from Rose Kemp, Region VII Administrator of the Women's Bureau (includes Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska and Kansas), LLWC Director Bonnie Coffey attended to learn more about the bureau's strategic plans, future funding and current projects. Currently, LLWC is a partner in the bureau's WiSe Up and GEMNursing program.

Attendees came from far and wide to learn more about DOL resources and programs. Although the room was mostly filled with Kansas City residents and civic leaders, regional representation were in attendance such as the Korean consulate and from the ABWA national headquarters.

Your Commission at Work & Play!

Ever wonder what happens "behind the scenes" at the Women's Commission? Here's a small sampling of projects and programs LLWC has engaged in this quarter.

CANDIDATE'S DEBATE

WHO WILL BE YOUR CANDIDATE OF CHOICE THIS NOVEMBER?

Thursday, Sept. 23, 2004 @ 6 pm
Saint Paul United Methodist Church
11th & "M" Streets, Lincoln, NE
Moderator: Sandra Powell, president of the Nebraska League of Women Voters

DEBATE SCHEDULE:

6:00 p.m. - County Commissioners, Districts 2 & 4
6:45 p.m. - Legislative District 29 (Moderator Nancy Intermill & Time Keeper Danja Siders, LLWC)
6:30 p.m. - First Congressional District
Candidates meet voters in the parlor prior to the debate.
7:30 p.m. - First Congressional District debate

COSPONSORS:

League of Women Voters, LLWC, Aging Services, North 27th Business & Civic Association, and Saint Paul United Methodist Church. For more information, contact LLWC at 441-7716

WOMEN & MONEY

The second annual Women & Money Conference is scheduled for Friday, September 24, 2004, at the Embassy Suites Hotel and Convention Center in Lincoln, NE.

There will be featured keynote speakers, lunch, exhibitors and educational workshops to discuss issues from balancing your checkbook to investing for your future. This event is sponsored by The Lincoln Agency and the Lincoln-Lancaster Women's Commission. Call the Lincoln Agency for more information at 484-6167, or e-mail inquiries to: info@womenandmoneyconference.com



Networking and learning are two key secrets in staying ahead of the power curve! Pictured, left to right, is Charlotte Nelson, executive director of the Iowa Commission on the Status of Women; Kay Barnes, Mayor of Kansas City, and Bonnie Coffey, director of LLWC.



The US Department of Labor Women's Bureau entertained a full house during a recent workshop for regional representatives and civic leaders to learn more about economic governmental resources and programs for women. Bonnie Coffey, LLWC director, attended the day long workshop. LLWC partners with DOL Women's Bureau in two mentoring programs: GEM Nursing & WiSe Up.

Welcome New Commissioner

Tami Soper is employed as executive director at the Clyde Malone Community Center. Soper has been an active member of the community, serving on a wide variety of boards including the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, Lincoln-Lancaster Quality Improvement Council, Health Partners Initiative, Malone Center Board of Directors, Lighthouse, Altrusa and the National Council of Negro Women.



SURFING THE WEB AGAIN? CLICK HERE!

www.ci.lincoln.ne.us/city/mayor/women/

WHAT CAN YOU FIND ON THE LLWC WEB SITE? ... LOTS!

Annual reports, special reports, Women's Leadership Recruitment Program, Advisory Board membership, Friends, Women's Alliance Directory, statistics, resources & contact information, news releases, past newsletters, and much, much more!

May's taping of **WomenTalk** focused on "Choices for Children: Choosing Quality Providers," with Marti Beard of Cedar Youth Services, Pam Dolberg of Family Services and Commissioner Bridget Christensen.

They can ignore 22 million single women...



If you let them.

Most of the time, it seems the politicians in Washington are listening to the rich, special interests, not us, not single women. They don't understand what it's like to be on your own trying to stretch a shrinking paycheck over skyrocketing health care bills. They don't understand that when you're single, and you lose your job, no one's going to step up to pay the rent. If you let them, they'll ignore you.

But this year, you can get their attention by speaking up at the polls.

22 million unmarried women did not vote in the 2000 election, according to the US Census. Vote this year and you can decide the election. You can make sure the politicians listen to you and not the special interests.

Use your right to vote to elect people who will protect your rights, and take on health care costs, protect jobs and paychecks, and improve our schools.

Vote.

**22 million women
on their own
can change the country.**



Women Vote!

If unmarried women voted at the same rate as married women, over six million more voters would have gone to the polls in 2000. Approximately 22 million unmarried women who were eligible didn't cast their ballots and another 16 million weren't registered to vote. Women, on their own, can transform the face of American politics.

"Sometimes, it's not enough that we do our best; sometimes we have to do what's required,"
-- Winston Churchill

Days Gone By Are Today's Expressions of Speech

Needless to say, personal hygiene left much room for improvement. As a result, many women and men had developed acne scars by adulthood. The women would spread bee's wax over their facial skin to smooth out their complexions. When they were speaking to each other, if a woman began to stare at another woman's face she was told "mind your own bee's wax." Should the woman smile, the wax would crack, hence the term "crack a smile." Also, when they sat too close to the fire, the wax would melt and therefore the expression "losing face."

Ladies wore corsets and a tightly tied lace was worn by a proper and dignified lady as in being "straight laced."

LLWC President's Letter

A Realistic View to Social Security Issues

I decided to take on the subject of Social Security's solvency again, in this column, because it is so vital to the women of America. For a variety of reasons many of us mistakenly find this discussion to be irrelevant to our current lives. While the topic is definitely dry (ok, possibly boring) it is significantly important to women of all ages in our society. The media often gives the impression that the issue pits the young against the old, and many women strongly believe that "nothing will be left" in the pot when they move into retirement. This is not true!

In unison, three times, let us all chant "Social Security is not going broke." Despite the gloom and doom of the media and many misinformed pundits, Social Security is completely funded through 2042. This means that without doing anything to "fix" Social Security between now and 2043, every recipient currently in the system will receive 100 percent of their benefits, and beginning in 2043, the fund will still be able to pay at a rate of 73 percent.

So why is Alan Greenspan speaking out and "warning" us that the system may be in jeopardy? Because many in Congress are suggesting that the Social Security fund be used to pay down the federal deficit. But Social Security should not be a resource for negotiators over the federal budget deficit. While Social Security was designed to be a supplemental retirement program, for many retirees it is their sole source of income in their later years. This is particularly true for women, who may not have worked outside the home or who did, but without pension or retirement benefits.


In a recent statement, OWL Executive Director Dr. Laurie Young noted that women comprise the majority of Social Security beneficiaries representing 58% of all Social Security recipients at 65 and 71% of all recipients by age 85. Older women should not bear the burden of fiscally irresponsible tax cuts. Over 90% of women over 65 receive Social Security with a median (annual) benefit of \$7,750.00. Without Social Security, more than 50% of women over the age of 65 would be living in poverty.

Is there an imminent problem? No. Is there a longer range problem? Perhaps. Social Security is designed so that the current work force pays the benefits for the current retirees. Because the baby boomers will bring so many retirees into the work force in a relatively small window of time, this could place an extra burden on the workers who will be funding the system at that time (in many cases, this means our children). For this reason, we do need to strategically plan to strengthen the Social Security fund before it may become subject to peril later in the century.

It is important to keep in mind that we never know what the nation's economy will be like at any given time, because it is so heavily dependent on world events and conditions that are constantly in flux, and this can have major implications for the fund's solvency. What we do know is that using the current fund to pay off the national debt will be short-sighted, leaving many current and new Social Security beneficiaries in a situation where they cannot provide for themselves. Then it will be up to their children –or the government –to pay for the living costs of people who have worked and contributed to our economy all their lives. It is foolish to consider anything other than strengthening the Social Security fund at this time.



Nancy Intermill



My Medical History Record Brochures Available


A project of LLWC Health Committee, the new six-page brochure helps women record vital information to share with their health care provider when under doctor's care. Call LLWC to obtain your copy! English and Spanish editions are now available; Vietnamese forthcoming.

Join Hundreds of Other Business Owners, Free Web Site Exposure for the Online HUB Business Directory!

The Lincoln Commission on Human Rights and the Lincoln Lancaster Women's Commission have joined resources to update the *Historically Underutilized Business* (HUB) directory, containing information on women and minority-owned businesses. Originally published in 2001 as a booklet, the HUB Directory serves as a resource guide to private industries, agencies, and public to assist them in identifying women and minority suppliers of products and services. The project, scheduled to be completed by early Fall 2004, will be an online service and accessible through the Internet.

If you are a woman-owned or minority-owned business and would like to be included in this project, please contact Karen Wamsley at the Women's Commission office, 441-7716, with your basic business contact information.

If you know of someone who has a woman-owned/minority-owned business, give that person a call and spread the word. This FREE online service is a wonderful advertising tool for the small business owner.



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5561 South 48th Ste 201A
Lincoln, Nebraska 68516

Why Nebraska Women Need to Vote on November 9th ...

*We rank #2 in the nation for women's labor force participation, but 45th in the nation for Women's Median Annual Earnings.
* We rank 42nd in the nation for women in managerial and professional occupations.

Lincoln-Lancaster Women's Commission
440 S. 8 St., Ste. 100, Lincoln, NE 68508
402/441-7716

August is National Breastfeeding Month

Breastfeeding Builds Better Brains & Bodies! We have resources for you.

We Can Help!

BryanLGH Medical Center481-3328
LL County Health Dept441-8065
La Leche League441-9509
MilkWorks 423-6402
St. Elizabeth Medical Center ... 486-7471
WIC441-6200, 441-8655

When You Need A Friend, Just Call On Me!



Become a Friends member and support the Commission. Send your tax deductible donation to:

Friends of the Commission
PO Box 81454
Lincoln NE 68501-1454

Commission Quarterly Newsletter

The Lincoln-Lancaster Women's Commission (LLWC) is an Advisory Board created by elected officials to advise the Mayor, Lincoln City Council and Lancaster County Board on issues that impact women. Please address any correspondence to: Lincoln-Lancaster Women's Commission, 440 S. 8th St., Ste. 100, Lincoln NE 68508-2294 or call (402) 441-7717.

Editorial Policy:
The Commission Quarterly is a publication of Friends of the Lincoln-Lancaster Women's Commission. Publishing costs are paid by Friends. Materials appearing in this publication shall be in accordance with the purposes, goals and official positions of the Lincoln-Lancaster Women's Commission and Friends of the Women's Commission. The Commission Quarterly is published four times a year: January, April, July and October.

Criteria for Publication:
Submission by community groups and individuals are welcome. Deadlines are the first of the month preceding the month of publication. Articles are subject to editing, with the author's compliance. Specific opinions expressed are not necessarily the opinions held by LLWC employees, its Commissioners or Friends of the Women's Commission.

Advertising
Advertising is available in a business card sized ad and will be accepted as space is available on a first come, first serve basis. All ads should be camera ready and must be submitted one month before the publication date. For more information on advertising opportunities, call 441-7717.

Friends of the Commission
Friends of the Lincoln-Lancaster Women's Commission is a 501 (c)(3) organization that solicits funds for the commission's projects.

LLWC Staff
Karen Wamsley, office specialist; Diane Mullins, public information specialist, and Bonnie Coffey, director.

Friends Executive Board
Karen Dienstbier, president; Roberta Stick, vice president; Georgia Glass, treasurer; Nan Schweiger, secretary, and Marcia Kushner, immediate past president.

CQ Committee
Bonnie Coffey and Diane Mullins.

LLWC Commissioners
Jeri Brandt, Holly Burns, vice-president; Bridget Christensen, member-at-large; Gwendolyn M. Combs, Jeannine Falter, Jennifer Gutierrez, Nancy Intermill, president; Bethina Moore, Barbara Ramsey, Beth Rodacker, Danja Siders, Nicole Simon, Tami Soper, Roberta Stick, and Kathleen Uhrmacher, member-at-large.

July 2003 Summer Issue



Located within the city's "Interline" web site system, the Women's Alliance (LLWA) directory offers a wide variety of information on individual clubs and organizations, including the contact information. If your organization or agency would like to post information free of charge or update its current information, an application can be obtained from the web site's index page (www.ci.lincoln.ne.us/city/mayor/women/llwa) or call 441-7716 and one will be snail-mailed to you. If you are looking for a way to become actively involved in the community, make new friends or strengthen networks, look in the listings for great connections!

This community service is sponsored by Friends of LLWC and the Lincoln-Lancaster Women's Commission.



Mission Statement

Working as a division of the Mayor's Office since 1976, the Lincoln-Lancaster Women's Commission works to assure that the women of Lincoln & Lancaster County have full participation in the issues that have an impact on their lives. The Commission advises City and County officials of social, economic and legal barriers that prevent women from choosing their roles in the family, the labor force and society in general, and working toward the elimination of those barriers. With 15 volunteers and a paid staff of three, the Commission continues to engage in activities designed to heighten community awareness in the areas of self-sufficiency, health care, safety, education and act as a clearinghouse of information for women in need.



Adolescent Pregnancy:
A Women's Health Issue

Despite recent declines, the United States has one of the highest teen pregnancy rates in the developed world. The U.S. teenage birthrate of 45 per 1,000 females, age 15-19 in 2001 (decreased 27% from its peak recorded in 1991) remains about twice as high as the rates in Great Britain and Canada, and five times higher than Sweden and France.

One in five teens has had sexual intercourse before thier 15th birthday, according to a new report issued by the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy. One in seven sexually experienced 14-year-old girls reports having been pregnant.

Eight out of 10 sexually experienced teens, age 12-14, say they wish they had waited longer to have sex. The younger a girl, the more likely she is to say the sex was unwanted. Approximately half of those age 12 to 14 years old reported having been on a date or having a romantic relationship in the past 18 months.

In Nebraska, 8% of youth reported they were forced to have sexual intercourse against their will. Almost half, 43%, had sexual intercourse and 15.5 % reported having relations before the age of 13. In 2002, one in 10 Nebraskan teenage girls had a baby.

How can you help? Strongly encourage teens, especially young teens, to delay sexual activity. Parents should encourage their younger teens to spend time with same-age peers in supervised settings and discourage single-couple dating, especially with partners who are three or more years older, until teens are 15 or more.

Parents should ask younger teens about their ideas about love, sex and future plans and share with them their own values and beliefs. Discuss differences of opinions.

Advocate for schools to teach middle school students about sexuality, contraception, STD prevention & abstinence in a factual way. Always provide teenagers, especially those who are 9 to 14 years old, the opportunity to discuss and ask questions about reproductive health issues.

Discuss with parents and younger teens the potential risk of forced or unwanted sex when a partner is more than three years older. Provide options for the future that are more attractive than early sex, pregnancy and parenthood. Provide opportunities to participate in activities and programs suitable to their age group and interest.

(Source: Nebraska Health & Human Services, "Adolescent Pregnancy in Nebraska" brochure.)

Commission Quarterly News
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Commission Quarterly

Business and the Working Woman

Get Your Bite Out of the Federal Money Pie

If you operate your own business, then you most likely know what it feels like to see your profit & loss statement floundering in red and black ink. Ever wish you could reach the all American dream: baseball, hotdogs, Chevrolet and Uncle Sam's money pie?

Of course you would, and so does the Small Business Administration (SBA) who deemed women-owned businesses the fastest growing segment of the work force. According to www.womenbiz.gov, a speciality SBA Web site maintain for women entrepreneurs, almost 40% of Uncle Sam's money pie - reserved for women - is being thrown out! That's too much grant money to leave behind.

What does the government buy? The government spends over \$200 billion every year for goods and services. In 1999, contracts for services was the largest acquisition category at \$78 billion. The government also spends money on supplies and equipment (35%); agriculture, transportation, communications, utilities, and finance (19%); construction (7%); and wholesale/retail (3%).

In October 2002, the Office of Federal Contract Assistance to Women Business Owners (CAWBO) was established at the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) within the Office of Government Contracting and Business Development. Its mission is to work closely with the other Federal agencies and Federal prime contractors to open up more contracting opportunities for Women-Owned Small Businesses (WOSBs), and to reach or surpass the established goals of five percent of awards in both Federal contract and subcontract dollars.

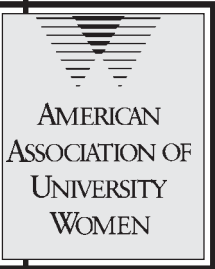
What are the historical federal contracting trends for women-owned small businesses? In 1994, the Federal Acquisition Streamlining Act (FASA) was established, setting a goal for Federal agencies to award at least 5% of all prime and subcontract dollars to women-owned small businesses (WOSBs). Despite continued growth in the number and economic impact of women-owned firms, the 5% goal has never been achieved on a government-wide basis. Nonetheless, 2.9% of Federal contract dollars were spent with women-owned businesses in FY2002 – the highest share achieved since this information has been recorded.

PRO-Net is the SBA's free online database of small businesses. It is searched by contracting officers and prime contractors seeking small businesses in particular industries and locations, often by the type of ownership. It is an excellent marketing tool for WOSBs to gain instant and wide exposure. The CCR has become the single point of vendor registration for the Federal government, including PRO-Net. For more information, go online to: www.womenbiz.gov.

Want to be a Part of
the Bigger Picture?

We're looking for new members to join AAUW! Help promote equity for women and girls, lifelong education, and positive societal changes. Contact Julie McLean (402) 488-3205 to learn more on how you can get involved to make the difference in the big picture!

Or, e-mail to: jmclean01@yahoo.com.



ENROLL TODAY AT LLWC

Some say it is a profession about caring. Some say it is a profession about solving problems and using critical thinking skills. Some say it is a profession about administering medications and other treatments to patients. The truth is, nursing is all of these things and much, much more. Join an online mentoring program for student and professional nurses. Call 441-7717 for more information.



ONLINE
MENTORING
PROGRAM FOR
WOMEN

ENROLL TODAY AT LLWC

It's never too early and it's never too late to take control of your financial future. The first step is making time to learn and develop financial planning skills. The next critical step is taking action. By investing time and effort now, you can significantly enhance your financial security throughout your lifetime. Believe it or not, time is on your side. Call 441-7716 for more info!

From Friends

By Karen Dienstbier, president, Friends of LLWC

Summer is upon us and we are all busy with outdoor activities; late afternoons in the garden, taking kids to the swimming pool, golfing, playing baseball or the infamous "other." I've been traveling, and thinking about a couple of concerns that I would like to share.

Because we live in the Midwest, most of us take for granted living with friendly neighbors and being among people we trust. Not hearing much for a long time now from and about our local Nazi literature guy has been pleasant. But it was really discouraging to find that some areas of Lincoln were the unhappy recipients of a batch of racial hate literature lately. Because the people who receive this newsletter are among those who are most civic-minded, let us be certain to remember that when such events occur that they affect each and every one of us. But whether personally affected or not, we must be willing to be part of the solution by speaking out, writing letters to the paper, speaking in other local media, and supporting organizations like this that stand for civility and decency. Another issue that looms large with the coming election is taxes. I am greatly bothered by those who run for public office with little more than an agenda to "cut taxes." They seem to wish to convince the public that any funding of our government agencies is simply money wasted. Merely cutting taxes is not about being expansive and inclusive and supporting the needy and the disenfranchised among us. Cutting taxes will not build new and innovative programs to help our refugee population, the elderly, single parents, or especially single moms. It will not build programs to include low income families in the larger community. Cutting taxes does not fix our roads and sidewalks, it does not assist in care for the elderly living on a small fixed income, it does not allow smaller numbers of children in classrooms, nor does it provide a greater number of excellent teachers to teach them. Instead of voting for those whose only political theme is to cut taxes, consider voting for the person who has thoughtful ideas about responsibly utilizing our taxes for the good of our community, and especially for those less fortunate in our society. I hope we all would be willing to give up a dinner out or a movie and popcorn and drinks a couple of times a year to provide the money to allow to help our neighbors and our community.

"The way I see it, if you want the rainbow, you gotta put up with the rain," - Dolly Parton, vocal artist.

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U. S. Congress

House of Representatives
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*Ask to speak to your district representative.

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5 City TV Schedule



Tuesdays, 10 PM
Wednesdays, 11 PM
Fridays, 1:30 PM
Sundays, 6:30 PM

*Programs subject to preempting